

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (currently amended): An oven ~~(1)~~ for heating blanks on the run, especially preforms or intermediate containers, made of a thermoplastic, this oven comprising conveying means ~~(2)~~, suitable for supporting and moving the blanks one after another while making each of them rotate about its own axis, and heating means ~~(3)~~ placed laterally to the conveying means ~~(2)~~ so as to heat the bodies of said moving blanks, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the conveying means ~~(2)~~ are arranged so as to have at least two conveying branches ~~(4, 5)~~ lying approximately parallel to each other, and near each other, and having opposite conveying directions, the blanks traveling along said two branches one after each other, and the heating means ~~(3)~~ being placed between said two parallel conveying branches ~~(4, 5)~~ and arranged so as to heat, bilaterally and simultaneously, the blanks running in opposite directions along the two conveying branches respectively.

Claim 2 (currently amended): The oven as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the two conveying branches ~~(4, 5)~~ are joined, at one of their ends, by a loop conveying section ~~(8)~~ that is located outside the zone where the heating means act.

Preliminary Amendment
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Claim 3 (currently amended): The oven as claimed in claim 1 ~~or 2~~, characterized ~~in that wherein~~ it includes two pairs of parallel conveying branches (4A, 5A; 4B, 5b) with heating means (3A, 3B) placed between the two branches of each pair respectively, the four conveying branches being connected together via loop conveying sections (8A; 8B) located outside the zones where the heating means act.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The oven as claimed in claim 3, characterized ~~in that wherein~~ the four conveying branches (4A, 5A; 4B, 5B) are mutually parallel.

Claim 5 (currently amended): The oven as claimed in ~~any one of claims~~ claim 1 to 4, characterized in that the conveying branches (4, 5) are approximately rectilinear.

Claim 6 (currently amended): The oven as claimed in ~~any one of claims~~ claim 1 to 5, characterized ~~in that wherein~~ reflectors (9) are placed alongside each conveying branch on the opposite side from that occupied by the heating means (3).

Claim 7 (currently amended): The oven as claimed in ~~any one of claims~~ claim 1 to 6, characterized ~~in that wherein~~ the heating means (3) comprise infrared lamps.